



Illinois Ethics Matters

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Honesty, Integrity, Service

**A newsletter from the Office of Executive Inspector General for the Agencies
of the Illinois Governor**

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Recent News

The OEIG is pleased to announce the appointment of five new employees to its Chicago office:

- **Theresa Kleinhaus** will serve as assistant inspector general. Theresa, a licensed attorney, most recently worked in private practice, handling civil litigation.
- **Brandon Myers** will serve as supervising investigator. Brandon is a former municipal chief of police and most recently worked for the U.S. State Department.
- **Julie Africk, Carl Weaver, and Tammy Clark** will serve as investigators. Julie, a licensed attorney, most recently worked as an investigator for the National Equal Employment Opportunity Investigative Service and formerly served as an administrative law judge. Carl served with a suburban police force for 27 years, most recently as detective sergeant. Tammy most recently worked as an investigator for a major credit bureau.

Prohibited Political Activities for Public Employees



As we enter a presidential election year, the likelihood for public employees to be asked to engage in political activities increases. So as political and campaign activity heats up, employees should not forget that the State Officials and Employees Ethics Act prohibits them from engaging in certain activity. Among other limitations, state agency, state public university and regional transit board (RTA, CTA, Metra and Pace) employees, appointees and officials are **prohibited** from intentionally misappropriating any state, university or transit board property or resources by engaging in any prohibited political activity for the benefit of any campaign for elective office.

These prohibitions apply to, among other property or resources, office computers, phones and email accounts. Employees may not **intentionally** use their office computer or email accounts to send or receive information in support of a candidate for elective office.

Individuals subject to the Ethics Act are also prohibited from intentionally performing prohibited political activities during compensated time (other than vacation, personal or compensatory time off).

Employees under the OEIG's jurisdiction who find themselves on the receiving end of **unsolicited** political emails via their state equipment should:

- delete the email or simply not respond to or forward it; or
- contact their agency ethics officer for guidance.

The Ethics Act does not generally prohibit state employees from performing political activities on their own time and when not using state property or resources; however, when in doubt, employees should play it safe and consult their ethics officers.

David Keahl

Director of Ethics Training & Compliance

Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) Grant Fraud Hearing

Executive Inspector General Ricardo Meza is scheduled to testify before a joint meeting of the Human Services Committee and State Government Administration Committee of the Illinois House on **January 27, 2012 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Bilandic Building in Chicago.

Mr. Meza's testimony will focus on the OEIG/OIG-DCFS investigative report that uncovered significant and systematic deficiencies in the oversight of state grants involving millions of dollars, including:

- 1) the failure to appropriately monitor grants;
- 2) the failure to appropriately manage grant awards at DCFS; and
- 3) the failure to coordinate grant oversight activities.

Jessica Reese

*Legislative Assistant
Inspector General*

Calendar of Events: : January 30 – February 1, 2012: OEIG staff Theresa Kleinhaus, Kristy Shores, Christine Benavente, Julie Africk, Jayne Wadsworth and Kevin Wujciga will attend Reid investigative training, Oak Brook, IL; March 6, 2012: DIGs Erin Bonales and Neil Olson will address the Executive Ethics Commission's annual ethics officers' conference; March 14-15, 2012: all OEIG training, Urbana, IL; March 27-30, 2012: Investigator Edward Escamilla and AIGs Fallon Opperman and Tiffany Stedman will attend Public Corruption Training, Dallas, Tx.